

Bagdad Architectural Advisory Committee
Minutes of the July 30, 2004 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. with the following members and staff present: Mr. Charles Cook, Committee Chairman, Mrs. Jan Davis, Committee Member; Dr. Charles D'Asaro, Committee Member, Dr. Richard Lewis, Committee Member (on leave), Beckie Faulkenberry, Planning Director, Kacey Wagg, Transportation Planner and staff to the Committee, Sara Campney, Planning & Zoning intern and Chrystal Caylor, Planning & Zoning intern. Mrs. Pat D'Asaro and Mr. Michael Johnson also attended as visitors. Santa Rosa County Commissioner Bob Cole, arrived at the meeting at approximately 9:15a.m.

Sara Campney summarized the findings of the parcel survey of the Bagdad Village Historic District. Her findings are documented in the Bagdad Village Historic District Report and Maps. Ms. Campney summarized her findings:

- The use of wood siding in the district has an important function in maintaining the historic character. Vinyl siding should be considered an inappropriate construction material and should be used only when the use of wood would create an unreasonable hardship on the property owner. Both the Pensacola and Mobile historic districts prohibit the use of vinyl siding.
- The southern block of School St. and the length of Limit St. have many vacant lots, which can be developed. If maintaining the historic character of these areas is a priority, then the historic society and the County should take proactive steps to get funding for projects in the form of grants and loan assistance which will help property owners bear the financial burden of maintaining a historic structure. It should also be noted that a change in policy has also made church organizations eligible for public funds when maintaining or renovating a historic structure in some cases.
- There are several mobile homes and abandoned properties that need to be abated because they are beyond rehabilitation. Planning & Zoning should work with the Building Department to move this forward.

In addition to the policy issues that need to be addressed, the survey uncovered several information gaps that should be addressed as the planning process moves forward:

- The State Master Site File should be updated to reflect the structures which are now eligible and remove those that have been destroyed.
- The profiles of architectural periods as shown in "We Remember Bagdad: An Architectural History" should be updated to review the period from 1945 – 1955.
- Properties that have actual dates of construction after 1954 but are listed on the State Master Site File as historic should be researched further and updated in the Property Appraiser's database if necessary.

There was a great deal of discussion in the group on the significance of the findings and the next steps in the process. Commissioner Bob Cole agreed to formalize the Advisory Board's initiative by gaining Commission support for the Land Development Code updates and overall planning effort in the Village of Bagdad. Mike Johnson agreed to spearhead the Santa Rosa County Clean Community System First Saturday program for Bagdad. Staff was asked to distribute the survey report to members.

The next regular Committee meeting was set for July 20, 2004 at 8:30 a.m.

The Committee adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.